

BACK TO WORK

“Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture”

Ezra 5-6 / Part 16 / Pastor Matthew Jones

www.delreychurch.com

The People Halted (Ezra 1-4)

The Prophetic Hope (Ezra 5:1-2)

The Provincial Haters (Ezra 5:3)

The Problem Heats-up (Ezra 5:4-5)

The Paper’s Help (Ezra 5:6-17)

The Prince’s Hand (Ezra 6:1–12)

The Practical Hands-on (Ezra 5-6)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. What comes to mind in your personal life (whether at home, work, school, etc.) when you hear the word procrastination? Share.
2. This Sunday we picked up our study of the Post-Exilic biblical texts—specifically Ezra 5-6—which happen during a time of Israel’s national procrastination and sin in failing to rebuilt the Temple of God. If you didn’t touch on it in the last question, what comes to mind when you think about godly responsibilities that the Lord has given you which you have yet to exercise full dominion and obedience in/over? Try to be vulnerable and share.
3. In the New Testament, the Temple of God is said to be the church of Jesus Christ in this present age (e.g., 1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:19-20, Eph. 2:19-22), so with this in mind and also with Israel’s failure in Ezra in mind, let’s reflect on how we personally are failing to fulfill our responsibilities to the current Temple of God, that is, the church of Jesus. Of course, we all carry/juggle guilt for failing in other responsibilities at home, work, relationships, etc. but let’s think about our collective/personal failings in placing God and church above other things. That said, what forces in our culture tempt us and trap us (e.g., consumerism, media addiction, youth sports, family worship, false idols, anxiety, placing things over the church, etc.) do you think could be keeping our local church and the church in North America from revival? Discuss.
4. Having focused on our failings and blind-spots in the above questions, it is vitally important for us to pause and discuss the crucial role rehearsing the gospel of Jesus plays in our lives in the face of our failures, procrastinations, compromises, and more. How does the gospel inform and empower us? Share.
5. What are your take-aways from the sermon concerning how we view God and what He is doing in the world? How did the sermon both inform you and call you to action? How can you personally apply the Scripture we studied to your life? How can others be praying for you as you apply the word of God to your life and seek the Spirit to empower you in your witness of Christ and joy in the Lord?